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1. Tear down this tower

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Tear down this tower

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Body

For more than 70 years, the 39-storey United Nations headquarters in New York has towered over Manhattan's East River skyline. Built on land once owned by the Rockefeller family, the structure is a modernist monument to slivery political and architectural manipulations executed through a panel of bigname global architects from the United States, the Soviet Union, Europe, the United Kingdom and elsewhere. They squabbled for several years before building the structure that now serves as the home of UN bureaucrats and the General Assembly, an institution that now towers over global policy making.

This week's annual General Assembly policy rant by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres should serve as a sign that it may be time to begin work on dismantling the United Nations, perhaps turning its iconic headquarters into a condo tower where normal people can replace the undemocratic, power-seeking control freaks who now wander its corridors in search of new ideological schemes and fears to inflict on an already troubled world.

The first of these corridor wanderers to go should be Guterres. On Tuesday, as the UN's top political figure, he delivered what could be seen as two central arguments to support dismantling the organization.

Reason 1: if the state of the world is as dire as Guterres describes, then the UN must be viewed as a massive organizational and diplomatic failure.

Guterres rolled through a long series of hyperbolic phrases to describe the fresh hells now allegedly engulfing the world, under the auspices of the UN: "Our planet is burning. ... The world is in peril - and paralyzed. ... We are in rough seas. A winter of global discontent is on the horizon. A cost-of living crisis is raging. ... We are gridlocked in colossal global dysfunction."

On he went, each expression of catastrophism one step deeper into the morass than the last: "The international community is not ready or willing to tackle the big dramatic challenges of our age. ... Crises like the war in Ukraine and the multiplication of conflicts around the globe. Crises like the climate emergency and biodiversity loss. Crises like the dire financial situation of developing countries and the fate of the Sustainable Development Goals."

After itemizing all this, Guterres ended on an upbeat note: "Let's work as one, a coalition of the world, as united nations." But what his stream of gloomy talk suggests is that the world does not need more of the United Nations. On the contrary, if the world is in such a rotten state, one could sensibly conclude that the UN has dramatically failed to fulfil its mandate, which is to oversee global political, economic, humanitarian, social and legal matters.

Also on the UN agenda is world peace and security under the watchful eyes of the UN Security Council, where veto power is held by Vladimir Putin's Russia - even as he invades Ukraine.

Reason 2 for shutting down the UN: there is ample evidence to conclude that many of the identified problems have actually been created by the United Nations through its various agencies and policies.

Of what use is the socalled Security Council that sits powerless while one of its members, Russia, invades a neighbouring state? In the case of the COVID-19 pandemic, Guterres was a leading advocate of lockdowns, calling for a "wartime" plan like none other before - a plan that helped create the current global economic turmoil.

Many other UN statist interventions in policy making have also shaped the current state of the world, with new schemes emerging around this week's meetings. The Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection plan calls for $1.2-trillion in annual spending, "with the aim of fast-tracking much-needed global actions to promote a job-rich recovery, as well as just ecological, technological and societal transitions to more sustainable and inclusive economies."

But no UN campaign has done more to exacerbate global economic and energy problems than the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Since its first report in 1990, the IPCC has led the global drive to eliminate carbon-emitting fossil fuels from the global economy - even though numerous critics have attacked the IPCC's alarmist claims.

In a paper this month from the Fraser Institute, Jason S. Johnston, professor of environmental law at the University of Virginia, summarizes the IPCC's long record of exaggerating claims that the world is on the brink of disaster. As an example, Johnston recalls a Guterres statement following the release of the IPCC's 2021 report.

Guterres called the report a "code red for humanity," with "greenhouse-gas emissions from fossil-fuel burning and deforestation ... putting billions of people at immediate risk." Johnston points out that "nowhere" does the IPCC report make such assertions.

In his Fraser Institute paper, Johnston provides a brief update to his 2021 book, Climate Rationality: From Bias to Balance, which argues for "rational policy choices" based on real assessments and the real costs of attempting a massive transformation of global economic activity. Johnston argues in his paper (see excerpt elsewhere on this page) that climate policy in the United States, Canada and around the world is based on reports from the IPCC, which "assembles the evidence and argumentation that serves the interests of its sponsoring entities, who are openly committed to an ambitious climate policy agenda."

Johnston describes the 1988 political origins of the IPCC and concludes that its purpose was "not to foster scientific inquiry into climate change, but to marshal evidence supporting international policy action on climate change." Johnston cites examples from the 2021 IPCC report summary. One small indicator was a claim that the "frequency and intensity of heavy precipitation events have increased since the 1950s." The actual data show that there was no evidence of human contribution in 45 of 47 regions surveyed, according to Johnston.

A group of Italian scientists reached similar conclusions in a paper earlier this year titled, "A critical assessment of extreme events trends in times of global warming." The scientists reviewed evidence on extreme weather events, hurricanes, tornadoes and precipitation and found little to suggest a massive climate emergency. In the case of hurricanes, for example, they note that 60 per cent of global economic damages is attributed to hurricanes in the United States. That fact generates a lot of attention, but ignores the lack of naval observation in historical data. "After adjusting the time series to take into account the smaller observational capacities of the past," the scientists conclude, "there remains only a small nominally positive upward trend of the tropical storms from 1878 to 2006. Statistical tests indicate that this trend is not significantly distinguishable from zero."

Backed by overheated IPCC reports, the UN and most of the world's political power sources are pushing for accelerated climate control policies. Guterres fanned the flames in his speech this week, referring to "our suicidal war against nature."

The world has a "rendezvous with climate disaster," he said. "I recently saw it with my own eyes in Pakistan - where one-third of the country is submerged by a monsoon on steroids. We see it everywhere. Planet ***earth is a victim*** of scorched earth policies."

The Pakistan flood story today looms large in the rhetoric of climate crusaders, but climate change may not be the primary culprit. A recent Bloomberg analysis by David Fickling describes Pakistan's "chronic" under-investment in infrastructure needed to protect rising populations from natural disasters. Floods in the region are not new and the country may have averted the current catastrophe had the region not been starved of capital due to "years of under-investment in maintenance; corruption; and disputes between Pakistan's four provinces about the allocation of water and funds."

Pakistan, moreover, has long been a flash point in UN disaster relief planning as it relates to climate change, but little has been accomplished.

Instead, the country has adopted classic UN green new deal policy blather unrelated to the country's real economic, political - and environmental - problems.

As a party to the UN Paris Agreement, Pakistan last year produced a 76-page net-zero participation document, which says that Pakistan "intends to set a cumulative ambitious conditional target of overall 50 per cent reduction of its projected emissions by 2030, with 15 per cent from the country's own resources and 35 per cent subject to provision of international grant finance that would require US$101 billion just for energy transition.

To reach the target, Pakistan aims to shift to 60 per cent renewable energy, and 30 per cent electric vehicles by 2030 and completely ban imported coal."

Electric vehicles (EVs) will not relieve Pakistan's millions of flood victims. Nor will 30 per cent EVs do much in a country with less than 30 vehicles per 1,000 population (compared with over 700 per 1,000 in Canada), a target that seems guaranteed to keep Pakistanis navigating floods on foot and boat for decades.

These are the absurd consequences of following the UN climate panic agenda. Another current example of UN-fostered disaster is Germany, which shut down nuclear power operations to speed up the country's adoption of renewable solar and wind power. Gripped by green renewable thinking, Germany replaced that lost nuclear power with natural gas from Russia. The result has been an energy crisis in Germany and Europe - all for the sake of adhering to UN climate goals.

At the UN General Assembly this week, there has been little evidence the UN sees itself as the cause of numerous global crises. But maybe it is time to dismantle the UN and tear down the tower on the edge of Manhattan.

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Graphic

Getty Images, Istockphoto; Perhaps it's time to turn the 39-storey UN headquarters "into a condo tower where normal people can replace the undemocratic, power-seeking control freaks who now wander its corridors," writes Terence Corcoran.;

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